

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a method of forming a connection in a suspended ceiling grid between cross beams and a main beam, using a connector on the end of a cross beam that is stabbed through a slot in a main beam, ~~in a suspended ceiling grid to lock the connector with~~ (1) ~~with~~ the main beam, and (2) ~~with~~ an opposing identical connector already in the slot[[,]]; ~~and that wherein the connector has a straight locking latch that pivots cantilevered from a base in the connector at a bend, that is capable of flexing and forming a pivot for the latch to permit the latch to pass through the slot and lock the connector to the main beam[[,]];~~

the improvement comprising a bend in the form of an arc, so that the locking latch pivots ~~capable of flexing~~ along the arc toward the base to permit the latch to pass through the slot.

Claim 2 (original): The improvement of claim 1, wherein the arc forms a radius of about .04 inches.

Claim 3 (original): The improvement of claim 1, wherein the locking latch is constructed substantially in accordance with the dimensions shown in Figure 2a.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): The improvement of claim 1, wherein such improvement ~~is capable of providing a delay in~~ delays contact between the side of the slot and the locking latch[[,]] ~~during which delay~~ while a taper on the connector being stabbed through the slot positions the connector vertically within the slot[[,]] more quickly than without the delay.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The improvement of claim 1, wherein such improvement ~~is capable of providing a delay in~~ delays contact between the side of the slot and the locking latch, so that a longer ~~greater~~ lever arm is created to apply force to pivot ~~flex~~ the locking latch as it is stabbed through the slot than would be created without the delay.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The improvement of claim 1, wherein such improvement ~~is capable of providing a delay~~ delays ~~in~~ contact between the side of the slot and the locking latch, so that ~~during which delay~~ the lateral friction created between the connector already in the slot, and the connector that is being stabbed through the slot, is substantially reduced from ~~said~~ the lateral friction created without the delay.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The improvement of claim 1, wherein such improvement ~~is capable of providing a delay in~~ delays contact between the side of the slot and the locking latch, so that during the delay, the connector being stabbed through the slot can be adjusted vertically to a position where it locks with the connector already in the slot.

Claim 8 (original): In combination, the improvements set forth in claims 1 through 7 above.

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Claim 9 (currently amended): A connector set forth in the methods of claims 1 through 7 ~~claim 8~~ that is requires ~~capable of requiring~~ substantially less force over a shorter distance with the improvements set forth in claim 8, to lock the connectors to each other and to the main beam, than is required without the improvements.